THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Recently, Indo-Russian Protocol on trade turn over and payments in 1992 has been signed which envisages import of crude oil and petroleum products from Russia with the provision for payment in Indian rupees.

Refuelling facility at the airports

*2156. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to review its existing policy for providing refuelling facility at the Airports in the country; and

(b) is so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Refuelling facilities are provided at airports if considered necessary and taking economic viability consideration into account. A total of 74 airports, in the country are having such refueling facilities.

अनुसूचित जातियों / अनुसूचित जनजातियों के व्यक्तियों को गैस एजेंसियां

2157. **श्री राम अवधेश सिंह:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री 4 दिसम्बर, 1991 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 1273 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने याचिका समिति को बसे रसोई गैस धारकों की सूची दी थी जिनकी एजेंसियां तेल कम्पनियों द्वारा बिना "कारण बताओ नाटिस" दिये रद् कर दी गयी थीं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि ऐसी एजेंसियों की संख्या एक सौ से अधिक थी; और

(ग) क्या सरकार उसी आधार पर जिस आधार पर मैसर्स जैश्री इन्टरप्राइजिज और छः अन्य फर्मों को एजेंसियां बहाल की गई हैं, उक्त एजेंसियों को बहाल करने का विचार रखती है और यदि हां, तो कब तक?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी॰ शंकरानन्द): (क) से (ग) दिनांक 12.5.89 की याचिका समिति की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया था कि 1983-84 से 1987-88 के बीच 62 एल॰पी॰जी॰ एजेंसियां निरस्त की गई थीं इनमें से 6 मामलों को फिर से बहाल कर दिया गया है।

Gas Flaring Reduction Projects

2158. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to commission gas flaring reduction projects at all gas flaring wells;

(b) if so, by when all the gas flaring reduction projects are likely to be commissioned and the target of zero level achieved; and

(c) the extent to which the indigenous demand of gas in likely to be met as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Projects for reducing the flaring of gas have been undertaken in the Western off shore region, in Gujarat and in Assam. Flaring is expected to be reduced to minimum levels by 1995. The current level of flaring is approximately 11 million cubic metres per day.

Gas Terminal at Usar

2159. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have requested for second gas terminal at Usar; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

*Previously Unstarred Question 754, transferred from the 3rd March, 1992.

(b) Setting up of a gas terminal at Usar would depend on the availability of adequate gas in the Western offshore region, and on the techno-economic feasibility of the project.

Production of Raw Petroleum Coke

2160. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector refineries at Barauni, Bongaigaon, Digboi and Gauhati jointly have the capacity to produce Raw Petroleum Coke @2.90 lakh tonne per annum whereas actual production has never crossed 2.34 Lakh tonne, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for utilising the total installed capacity of Calcination Units, there is a demand for about 4.60 Lakh TPA of raw petroleum coke;

(c) if so, what is the allocation made by Indian Oil Corporation alongwith the reason for the short-fall and discrimination in supply of raw material to Public Sector Units and those in SSI sector;

(d) whether Government have any long-term plan for augmenting the supply of Raw Petroleum Coke to ensure optimum urilisation of the installed Calcination capacity in the country;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c): Production of Raw Petroleum Coke (RPC) in the four refineries was over 3 Lakh tonnes in 1989-90. Currently the production has been lower due to reduced availability of Assam crude. After meeting the requirement of captive calcining units of Public Sector Undertakings the balance available quantity of Raw Petroleum Coke is allotted to the recognised Calcining units on equitable basis prorated to their licenced/assessed capacity.

(d) to (f): RPC is produced only in Coking units and as such is a by-product. There are plans to increase cooking units capacity alongwith expansion of Bongaigaon Refinery and setting up of refinery at Numaligarh.

Supply of Gas to Fertilizer Plants

2161. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gas Authority of India Ltd. propose to delay the supply of gas by two years to the upcoming fertilizer plants along the HBO. pipeline in the private sector;

(b) is so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is its likely overall impact on the economic *via-bility* of the upcoming fertilizer plants as also on the existing fertilizer units?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Decline in Prices of Oil

2162. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the world oil prices have registered a fall;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of fall in the oil prices in the major oil markets; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to tie-up the oil purchases from both spot markets and for term contracts for 1992-93 with dip in the oil prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Oil prices have fluctuated both upwards and downwards.

(c) Prices under term contracts as well as in spot purchases are market related and are linked to the international prices at the time of supplies. Spot purchases are made on a month to month basis whereas term contracts are generally for